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May 8, 2017

The World Health Assembly
World Health Organization
Geneva, Switzerland

To the President of the World Health Assembly and all the Heads of Delegations of member states attending the World Health Assembly

We write to reflect the collective support from Pakistan's civil society for the candidacy of Dr. Sania Nishtar to be the next Director-General of the World Health Organization.

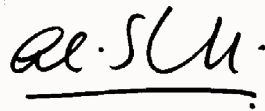
The world is now facing a plethora of health challenges that require a modern World Health Organization that is more nimble and effective. We are supporting Dr. Nishtar as the change maker needed to accelerate reform in the World Health Organization.

As well as founding and scaling up her own NGO, Dr. Nishtar has championed civil society while driving reform in the Government of Pakistan and as part of her extensive work with international agencies. She is the only candidate with civil society experience and a track record of being able to bring multi-stakeholder groups together to build joint strategies and plans of action.

She has shown her commitment to the major health challenges that face the world today. As a doctor, researcher, thought leader, minister, and policy maker she has shown the leadership qualities needed to take tough decisions and deliver results.

We strongly recommend Dr. Nishtar to all the Member States of World Health Organization and request your support at the upcoming World Health Assembly.

Signed by LEAD Pakistan on behalf of 122 Pakistan's civil society organizations



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List of civil society organizations supporting Dr. Sania Nishtar's candidature for Director-General WHO, in alphabetical order

Sr. No	Organization Name
1	70F - Friends of Humanity Foundation
2	Acasus Pakistan
3	Advocacy, Research, Training & Services Foundation
4	AHED Associates
5	Al Asar Development Organization
6	Aleem Conservation Consultants
7	Al-Eimman Development Organization
8	Al-Mehran Rural Development Organization
9	Alumeed Rehabilitation Association for Cerebral Palsy
10	Aman Foundation
11	Aman Health Care Services
12	Aman ki Asha Pakistan
13	Associated Consultancy Center
14	Association for Community Development
15	Association for Gender Awareness and Human Empowerment
16	Aurat Foundation
17	Awami Development Organization
18	Azat Foundation
19	Baidarie
20	Behbud Pakistan
21	Better Cotton Initiative
22	Brein Holden Vision Institute
23	Centre for Peace and Development Baluchistan
24	Chal Foundation
25	Children's Global Network Pakistan
26	Children's Museum for Peace and Human Rights
27	Civil Society Human and Institutional Development Programme
28	Community Development Foundation Pakistan

- 29 Community Development Organization
- 30 Community Initiatives for Development in Pakistan
- 31 Comprehensive Health and education forum International Pakistan
- 32 Da Hawwa Lur
- 33 Devnet Pakistan
- 34 District Development Association Tharparkar
- 35 Eco-Conservation Initiatives
- 36 Empowerment thru Creative Integration
- 37 Environmental Engineering Centre
- 38 Family Educational Services Foundation
- 39 Free and Fair Election Network
- 40 Friends foundation
- 41 Global Change Impact Studies Centre Pakistan
- 42 Greenstar Social Marketing
- 43 Haleema Development Organization
- 44 HANDS
- 45 Health, Education and Literacy Programme
- 46 Heartfile
- 47 HelpAge International Pakistan
- 48 Holistic Understanding for Justified Research and Action
- 49 Human Development Foundation Pakistan
- 50 I-CARE FOUNDATION
- 51 IDA RIEU Welfare Organisation
- 52 Idara Baray Smaji o Moashi Taraqi
- 53 Idara-e-Taleem-o-Aagahi
- 54 Indus Consortium
- 55 Indus Earth Trust - trustee
- 56 Indus Foundation for Human Development
- 57 Indus Resource Centre
- 58 Integrated Community Development Initiatives
- 59 Interactive Research & Development
- 60 IRADAH
- 61 LEAD Pakistan
- 62 Legal Research Institute of Pakistan
- 63 Legal Rights Forum
- 64 Management and Development Foundation
- 65 Mankind Welfare Organization
- 66 Mariam Ali Mohammad Tabba Foundation

- 67 Marie Adelaide
- 68 Marie Stopes Society Pakistan
- 69 Menstrual Matters Pakistan
- 70 National Disability & Development Forum Pakistan
- 71 National Forum for Environment & Health
- 72 National Integrated Development Association
- 73 NGO's Development Society
- 74 Oxford University Press Pakistan
- 75 Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy
- 76 Pakistan CSOs Coalition for Health and Immunization
- 77 Pakistan Down Syndrome Association
- 78 Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency
- 79 Pakistan Microfinance Network
- 80 Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund
- 81 Pakistan Press Foundation
- 82 Pakistan Coalition for Education
- 83 Paragon Welfare Development Council
- 84 Pathfinder International Pakistan
- 85 Patients Aid Foundation Pakistan
- 86 Plan International Pakistan
- 87 Progressive Advocates & legal consultants
- 88 Punjab Commission on the Status of Women
- 89 Rural Development Organization Buner Pakistan
- 90 Rural Education and Economic Development Society
- 91 Rural Support Programmes Network
- 92 Rutgers WPF Pakistan
- 93 Sach, Struggle for change
- 94 Sangtani Women Rural Development Organization
- 95 Sewa Development Trust Sindh
- 96 Sindh Rural Support Organization

- 97 Social Action Bureau for Assistance in welfare and organizational Networking
- 98 Social Policy and Development Centre
- 99 Society for Alternative Media and Research/Coalition for Tobacco Control in Pakistan
- 100 Society for International Education
- 101 Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child
- 102 SoSec International



- 103 South Asia Partnership Pakistan
- 104 Special Talent Exchange program
- 105 Strengthening Participatory Organization
- 106 Sultana Foundation
- 107 Sungi Development Foundation
- 108 Sustainable Development Policy Institute
- 109 Sustainable Land Management Programme
- 110 Thardeep Rural Development Programme Sindh Pakistan
- 111 The Cancer Foundation
- 112 The Citizens Foundation
- 113 The Health Foundation
- 114 The Hunar Foundation
- 115 The Indus Hospital
- 116 Tirra Development Organization
- 117 TrueWorth Foundation
- 118 War Against Rape
- 119 Water Environment Forum Pakistan
- 120 WaterAid Pakistan
- 121 White Ribbon Alliance Pakistan
- 122 World Wide Fund Pakistan

Pakistan's Civil Society Pledge for Dr. Sania Nishtar

Pakistan's civil society is united in their support of Dr. Sania Nishtar and together urge Member States across the world to elect her as the 8th Director-General of the World Health Organization.

Although Dr. Nishtar's resume speaks of her technical excellence and reflects how exceptionally well-qualified and experienced she is, it cannot fully reflect her leadership abilities and values, which we have seen first-hand, in Pakistan.

Dr. Nishtar has strong civil society credentials as founder of civil society institutions, as a health policy voice demanding improved governance, and as a member of boards of many INGOs. She has received Pakistan's Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Presidential award) for her contributions.

At home, Dr. Nishtar has led on the hard issues constructively. She has built civil society organizations from scratch and has developed innovative solutions to complex problems for which she has been awarded the Global Innovation Award. Dr. Nishtar has a formidable reputation of transparent governance and integrity, which is why she has the wholehearted support of the civil society.

Dr. Nishtar's credentials are uniquely suited to leading WHO also for the following reasons:

WHO is a technical agency and should be led by a leader with a strong professional background—Dr. Nishtar has a unique combination of experience as minister, civil society trailblazer, leader in multilateral institutions, physician scientist, thought leader, and founder of institutions. Dr. Nishtar is a medical doctor, which is a critical strength for leading WHO.

WHO is a multilateral organization and needs a leader who understands its dynamic—Dr. Nishtar's erudition in the multilateral system is well established. Recently as co-Chair of the WHO Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity, she was instrumental in achieving global consensus on a complex public health strategy. She has a long-standing working association with WHO.



WHO is currently undergoing a reform and change process to ensure it stays technically and institutionally relevant as the world's top agency in health—Dr. Nishtar is well known as a change agent. While in government, she developed the Federal Ministry of Health in less than 100 days, which now has a major impact on the Governments response to tackling diseases.

Accountability for results and transparency is key to WHO reform—Dr. Nishtar's selection by the UN Secretary General as founding Chair of a UN Independent Accountability Panel is evidence of her credentials. As Federal Minister, she undertook the widely-acclaimed accountability and transparency approach through publication of the 'Handover Papers.' In her civil society role, she has campaigned to promote accountability and has institutionalized it while building institutions.

WHO needs strong management—as someone who has founded institutions from scratch, and taken them to scale, Dr. Nishtar has unique and strong management experience. She understands governance from her diverse experience as chair and member of boards, both nationally and internationally. Through her work building institutions, she has gained extensive experience in strategy formulation, fund mobilization, partnership building, and use of innovations for systems-building.

WHO needs to be well-resourced in today's financially-constrained milieu—Dr. Nishtar has proven resource mobilization skills. She has singlehandedly sustained an NGO and a charity in Pakistan over a decade and a half. She has learned to leverage transparency as a tool to mobilize donors, and ensure accountability for use of funds. Establishing institutions in a resource-constrained environment has made her adept at efficient utilization of resources and building strong systems for change.

WHO is committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with Non-Communicable Diseases and Universal Health Coverage as two major additional areas of focus—Dr. Nishtar would have an advantage due to her expertise in health systems and Non-Communicable Diseases. She also has a strong track record of inter-sectoral action for health, which is a crosscutting theme of the SDGs.

Partnerships and innovations can be force multipliers for WHO—Dr. Nishtar has led public-private partnerships with governments and has effectively mobilized many stakeholders in her civil society role. She is noted for her collaborative approach and her ability to engage a wide variety of



governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to address complex problems and lead transformations.

With her developing country background and proven pro-poor record, Dr. Nishtar is well-placed to represent the views of, and be responsive to, the needs of the underprivileged. As a woman leader and change agent, she is particularly gender-sensitive.

As Member States, you have the power to deliver the change that the World Health Organization needs, we believe you will make the right choice for the world and back Dr Nishtar.